

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4738

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4656

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CH

SUBJECT: KIM IL-SUNG VISIT: CHINESE LEADERSHIP IMPRESSIONS

REF: HONG KONG 4362

1. KIM IL-SUNG'S VISIT SHOWED BOTH THE DEPTH AND SOME AWKWARD FEATURES OF THE PEKING LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENT. PARTY NUMBER THREE WANG HUNG-WEN, WHO UNDERSTUDIES MAO AND CHOU IN MEETING FOREIGNERS DURING 1973 AND EARLY 1974 BUT THEN ADOPTED A LOWER PROFILE AFTER CHOU'S ILLNESS, LOOKED LIKE A RAG DOLL. OBVIOUSLY NOT ACCEPTABLE TO PLAY THE SUCCESSOR AND DEAL SUBSTANTIVELY WITH KIM, WANG WAS ALSO APPARENTLY EXCLUDED BY HIS FORMAL HIGH RANK FROM SECONDING VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING IN THAT ROLE. IN CONSEQUENCE, WANG FLOPPED ABOUT WITH ONLY PROTOCOL APPEARANCES WHILE YOUNG PARTY IDEOLOGUE YAO WEN-YUAN, WHO HAS HAD A HIGH PROFILE SINCE HIS MARCH RED FLAG ARTICLE, ASSISTED TENG IN DEALING WITH KIM.

2. RECENTLY DEMOTED, FORMER PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN LI TEH-SHENG,
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THE TOP REGIME FIGURE MOST APPARENTLY IN TROUBLE AT THIS

TIME, FAILED TO APPEAR AT ALL DESPITE HIS ASSOCIATION WITH KOREA (HE LED A DELEGATION THERE TO HONOR KIM IN 1973.) AND THE FACT THAT KIM FORMALLY ENTERED AND DEPARTED THROUGH LI'S SHENYANG MILITARY AREA. IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT LI, STILL A POLITBURO MEMBER AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, HAS SLIPPED FURTHER, BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY AT LEAST SOME EMBARRASSMENT REMAINS ATTACHED TO HIS SITUATION.

3. ANOTHER RISING STAR, NEW VICE PREMIER CHI TENG-KUEI, ALSO STOOD OUT BY SITTING IN ON THE TALKS WITH KIM. CHI ALSO TOOK ON THE ROLE OF HOST FOR BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS WHOSE VISIT COINCIDED WITH KIM'S. THIS WAS CHI'S FIRST OUTING OF THIS KIND, AND ACCORDING TO REPORTS HERE THE BELGIANS FOUND HIM WELL-INFORMED AND A STRONG PERSONALITY.

4. AMONG OTHER NOTABLES, CHIANG CHING MADE A RARE POST-NPC APPEARANCE (HK 3762), BUT SEEMED LOST IN THE SHUFFLE OF PERSONALITIES, WHILE HSU HSIANG-CHIEN APPEARED FREQUENTLY THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, RANKING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE POLITBURO. HSU, A FORMER POLITBURO MEMBER, COULD BE A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR RE-INCLUSION IN ANY MOVE TO FILL THE SEAT OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED TUNG PI-WU. THE CAMEO APPEARANCE OF MAO AND CHOU WERE COMMENTED UPON IN REFTEL.
CROSS

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